



Jon Huntsman, Jr.
Governor

Francine A. Giani
Executive Director

Reed Warnick
Interim Director

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Committee of Consumer Services

Mailing Address: PO Box 146782
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6782

Telephone: (801) 530-6674
Fax: (801) 530-7655
Email: ccs@utah.gov
Web Site: www.ccs.utah.gov

Committee Members

Franz Amussen
Salt Lake City
Ryan Atkinson
Holladay
Kent Bateman
Levan
Kelly Casaday
Sandy
Dee Jay Hammon - Chair
Brigham City
Betsy Wolf
Salt Lake County

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Media Contact:

Chris Keyser

801-530-6487

Utility Consumer Advocate Probes Alternatives to Utility's Proposed Revenue Mechanism

Salt Lake City, UT – Utah's utility consumer advocate, the Committee of Consumer Services (Committee), is raising concerns about Questar Gas Company's proposed Demand-Side Management (DSM) Pilot Program and Full Sales and Revenue Decoupling Mechanism. According to Reed Warnick, Committee Interim Director, the current decoupling proposal provides clear benefits to Questar Gas Company but uncertain benefits, if any, to ratepayers.

Last December, Questar Gas Co., the Division of Public Utilities, and Utah Clean Energy (Joint Applicants) filed an application before the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) requesting approval of tariff changes that would implement a full sales and revenue decoupling mechanism. The proposed tariff changes were handcuffed to a rate decrease and a conservation program.

The Committee supported and pushed for an immediate rate decrease of \$9.7 million, which the Commission has since approved. "The Committee also strongly supports meaningful energy conservation measures," claims Warnick, "but there are better ways to incent Questar Gas to identify and promote meaningful energy conservation than a full sales and revenue decoupling mechanism."

On June 16, the Committee, Questar and the Utah Division of Public Utilities jointly requested that the Commission allow parties more time to respond to Questar Gas' proposal and to alternatives, which the Committee intends to propose. "This extension will allow time to ensure a program that does not unnecessarily shift risks to ratepayers," Warnick said.

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